Claim Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)

1. - 12. (Previously cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a porous ceramic body with excellent thermal insulation property, the method comprising:

an impregnation step in which a polymer sponge having a three-dimensional porous network structure with open cells is immersed in an inorganic adhesive, such that the polymer sponge is completely impregnated with the inorganic adhesive;

a dewatering step in which the inorganic adhesive is partially removed from the polymer sponge impregnated with the inorganic adhesive so as to create pores in a portion of the open cells in the three-dimensional porous network structure, such that the three-dimensional porous network structure of the polymer sponge is coated with the inorganic adhesive at an amount selected according to the desired density of the porous ceramic body; and

a drying step in which the polymer sponge from which the inorganic adhesive had been partially removed in the dewatering step is dried so as to cure the inorganic adhesive,

wherein the pores in the open cells in the three-dimensional porous network structure are provided without a sintering process.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the impregnating, dewatering and drying steps are performed

repeatedly several times.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the inorganic adhesive is at least one selected from the group consisting of silicates and modified silicates, including sodium silicate, potassium silicate and lithium silicate, sol compounds, including silica sol and alumina sol, and phosphate adhesives, including aluminum phosphate and modified aluminum phosphate.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a surfactant.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from silane coupling agents and organic adhesives.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from sodium silicofluoride and magnesium sulfate.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a water repellant.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, antimony compounds, boric acid, borax, phosphoric acid, phosphate, phosphorus-based and halogenbased flame retardants, and thermosetting resins.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, which additionally comprises the step of introducing a gaseous or solid curing agent into the pores of the polymer sponge, before the drying step but after the dewatering step.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the impregnating, dewatering and drying steps are performed repeatedly several times.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the inorganic adhesive is at least one selected from the group consisting of silicates and modified silicates, including sodium silicate, potassium silicate and lithium silicate, sol compounds, including silica sol and alumina sol, and phosphate adhesives, including aluminum phosphate and modified aluminum phosphate.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a surfactant.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein,

at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from silane coupling agents and organic adhesives.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from sodium silicofluoride and magnesium sulfate.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a water repellant.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, antimony compounds, boric acid, borax, phosphoric acid, phosphate, phosphorus-based and halogenbased flame retardants, and thermosetting resins.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the impregnation and curing step are performed repeatedly several times such that the inorganic adhesive is impregnated again into the polymer sponge.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in

the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a solid or liquid curing agent.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the impregnating, dewatering and drying steps are performed repeatedly several times.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the inorganic adhesive is at least one selected from the group consisting of silicates and modified silicates, including sodium silicate, potassium silicate and lithium silicate, sol compounds, including silica sol and alumina sol, and phosphate adhesives, including aluminum phosphate and modified aluminum phosphate.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a surfactant.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from silane coupling agents and organic adhesives.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from sodium silicofluoride and magnesium sulfate.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a water repellant.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, antimony compounds, boric acid, borax, phosphoric acid, phosphate, phosphorus-based and halogenbased flame retardants, and thermosetting resins.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the impregnation and curing step are performed repeatedly several times such that the inorganic adhesive is impregnated again into the polymer sponge.

39. (Currently amended) A porous ceramic body with excellent thermal insulation property, which is prepared by a method for preparing a porous ceramic body with excellent thermal insulation property, the method comprising:

an impregnation step in which a polymer sponge having a three-dimensional porous network structure with open cells is immersed in an inorganic adhesive, such that the polymer sponge is completely impregnated with the inorganic adhesive;

a dewatering step in which the inorganic adhesive is partially removed from the polymer sponge impregnated with the inorganic adhesive so as to create pores in a portion of the open cells in the three-dimensional porous network

structure, such that the three-dimensional porous network structure of the polymer sponge is coated with the inorganic adhesive at an amount selected according to the desired density of the porous ceramic body; and

a drying step in which the polymer sponge from which the inorganic adhesive had been partially removed in the dewatering step is dried so as to cure the inorganic adhesive,

wherein the pores in the open cells in the three-dimensional porous network structure are provided without a sintering process.

40. (Previously presented) The porous ceramic body of Claim 39, wherein the method additionally comprises the step of introducing a gaseous or solid curing agent into the pores of the polymer sponge, before the drying step but after the dewatering step.

41. (Previously presented) The porous ceramic body of Claim 39, wherein, at the impregnation step, the polymer sponge is immersed in the inorganic adhesive after mixing the inorganic adhesive with a solid or liquid curing agent.